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ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: NATURAL RESOURCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President, Mr. Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution I contained in document E/1996/31

Integration of key minerals issues into the implementation of Agenda 21

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that Agenda 21 1/ called for, inter alia, the identification of balanced patterns of consumption worldwide that the Earth can support in the long term,

Recalling also that in Agenda 21 and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, it is stated that the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances,

Noting that the policy implications of trends and projections in consumption and production patterns were evaluated in a report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session in 1996, 2/ and that the Commission endorsed the eco-efficiency

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ E/CN.17/1996/5 and Add.1.

approach and stressed the need for an appropriate balance between supply-side and demand-side approaches,

Noting also that in its inter-sessional strategy paper entitled "Towards the sustainable supply of minerals in the context of Agenda 21", 3/ the Committee on Natural Resources analysed the implications of those policy approaches for the minerals sector in terms of the capacity of the environment to absorb the physical and chemical impacts of minerals resource use, the sustainability of the supply of essentially non-renewable mineral resources, and the possibilities for modifying production and consumption patterns throughout the mineral cycle by introducing greater efficiency of minerals use, new technologies, recycling and substitution,

Recalling that those minerals issues impinge heavily on developing countries and economies in transition that seek to capture greater benefits from mineral development, and consequently also recalling the need to avoid undesirable impacts on those economies,

1. Brings to the attention of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the relevant United Nations bodies and the regional commissions the inter-sessional strategy paper entitled "Towards the sustainable supply of minerals in the context of Agenda 21"; 3/

2. Notes, in principle, the recommendations for concrete action contained in relevant resolutions of the Committee on Natural Resources; and recommends consideration of means of their implementation, within existing resources, through the relevant priority programmes and by maximizing the opportunities for collaboration among interested parties.

3/ E/C.7/1996/11.